

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 NEA-02 ISO-00 /005 R

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DRAFTED BY: IO/LABW:RCHEATER

APPROVED BY: IO:LKHAN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

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FOR EDWARD B PERSONS, ASSOCIATE UNDER SECRETARY OF LABOR

FOLLOWING REPEAT OTTAWA 2913 ACTION SECSTATE INFO CARACAS
LONDON MEXICO PARIS ROME STOCKHOLM GENEVA 05 DEC

QUOTE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, ILO, CA

SUBJECT: ILO DIRECTOR GENERAL ELECTION

REF: STATE 204762; OTTAWA 2456, 2493 AND 2516 (NOTAL)

1. LABATT MET ON DECEMBER 4 WITH JOHN THIBAUT, SENIOR
EXSTAFF OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR ILO MATTERS, TO ELICIT
LATEST GOC THINKING ON CANDIDATES FOR POSITION OF ILO
DIRECTOR GENERAL. THIBAUT DISCLOSED THAT HE HAD RECEIVED
REPORT THIS VERY SUBJECT JUST DAY BEFORE FROM CANADIAN
MISSION IN GENEVA AMONG OTHER THINGS, REPORT ADDRESSED
ITSELF TO QUESTION OF WHETHER CANADA SHOULD SPONSOR
CANDIDACY OF JOHN MAINWARING, GOC REP ON ILO GOVERNING
BODY. ACCORDING THIBAUT, MISSION ASSESSED
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MAINWARING'S CHANCES OF SUCCESS AT THIS TIME TO BE

VERY SMALL AND CONSEQUENTLY CONCLUDED THAT GOC SPONSORSHIP WOULD PROVE TO BE FUTILE EXERCISE. ALSO, MISSION OFFERED OPINION THAT MAINWARING'S EXPERIENCE AS CHAIRMAN OF GOVERNING BODY WAS NOT ALONE SUFFICIENT TO EQUIP HIM TO DEAL KNOWLEDGEABLY AND EFFECTIVELY WITH BROAD RANGE OF PROBLEMS FACING A DIRECTOR GENERAL.

2. THIBAUT REFERRED ONLY CURSORILY TO OTHER ASPECTS OF REPORT. HE SAID MISSION HAD NOT MADE DEFINITE RECOMMENDATION RE SUPPORT FOR ANY OTHER CANDIDATE BUT STRESSED FACT THAT BLANCHARD IS NOW IN STRONG LEADING POSITION. THIBAUT ADDED THAT BLANCHARD HAD MADE VERY FAVORABLE IMPRESSION ON CANADIAN OFFICIALS DURING VISIT TO OTTAWA SOME MONTHS AGO.
JOHNSON UNQUOTE RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: collinp0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE242038
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: IO/LABW:RCHEATER
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731231/aaaaawun.tel
Line Count: 76
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 204762; OTTAWA 2456, 2493 AND, 2516 (NOTAL)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: collinp0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05-Dec-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <08 MAR 2002 by collinp0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ILO DIRECTOR GENERAL ELECTION
TAGS: AORG, CA, ILO
To: NEW DELHI
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005